

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended, [\$82,200,000, of which \$20,161,000 is to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and \$62,039,000 is] *\$80,001,000* to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended, *of which \$5,066,666 shall be for the Idaho Salmon and Clearwater River Basins Habitat Account pursuant to the Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004. (P.L. 108-447; Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006.)*

(rescission)

[Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, \$1,000,000 are rescinded.] *(Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and Pandemic Influenza, 2006.)*

Justification of Language Change

- 1) Deletion: “\$82,200,000, of which \$20,161,000 is to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and \$62,039,000 is”

The budget proposes that funding for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund as part of the President’s 2007 budget.

- 2) Addition: “of which \$5,066,666 shall be for the Idaho Salmon and Clearwater River Basins Habitat Account pursuant to the Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004”

To fulfill obligations under the Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-447), \$5,066,666 will be provided to the State of Idaho for the Idaho Salmon and Clearwater Basin Habitat Account from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund through a commensurate decrease in the HCP Land Acquisition Grants program element.

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460l). Authorizes appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land for national wildlife refuges as otherwise authorized by law. Authorization of Appropriations: Expires September 30, 2015.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund		2005 Actual	2006 Enacted	2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation Grants \$(000)		7,325	9,852	-	+149	10,001	+149
HCP Planning Grants \$(000)		8,522	7,531	-	+111	7,642	+111
Species Recovery Land Acquisition \$(000)		13,400	13,977	-	+209	14,186	+209
HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States \$(000)		48,698	46,160	-	-5,573	40,587	-5,573
Nez Perce Settlement \$(000)		0	0	-	+5,067	5,067	+5,067
Administration \$(000)		2,518	2,481	-	+37	2,518	+37
User-pay cost share		[159]	[350]	-	-	[354]	[+4]
Total Appropriations \$(000) FTE		80,462 26	80,001 6	- -	0 -	80,001 6	0 0
Payment to Special Fund*		35,470	39,302		+3,859	43,161	+3,859
Total, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund \$(000) FTE		115,932 26	119,303 6	- -	+3,859 -	123,162 6	+3,859 0

*Amounts shown reflect an annual deposit of an amount equal to 5% of total Federal Aid/Sport Fish and Lacey Act violation collections above \$500,000 into this special fund. The cumulative total payments (projected at \$43 million at end of 2006) are available for subsequent appropriation to the CESC.

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Conservation Grants	+149	0
• HCP Planning Grants	+111	0
• Species Recovery Land Acquisition	+209	0
• HCP Land Acquisition Grants	-5,573	0
• Nez Perce Settlement	+5,067	0
• Administration	+37	0
Total, Program Changes	0	0

The FY 2007 budget request for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is \$80,001,000 and 6 FTE, a net program increase of \$0 and 0 FTE from the 2006 enacted level.

Program Overview

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF; Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) provides grant funding to States and territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands, including habitat acquisition, conservation planning, habitat restoration, status surveys, captive propagation and reintroduction, research, and education. Because most listed species depend on habitat found on State and private lands, this grant assistance is crucial to listed species conservation. States and territories have been extremely effective in garnering participation of private landowners. Section 6 grants assist states and territories in building these partnerships.

The CESCF program contributes directly to the Department's Resource Protection mission strategic goal to sustain biological communities by focusing on the conservation of the most imperiled components of these communities; CESCF grants support activities that benefit species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Because many of these grants provide for the protection and improvement of habitat for listed species, they also contribute to the Department's Resource Protection goal to improve the health of watersheds and landscapes. The Department's relevant end outcome measures are the percent of species listed a decade or more that are in stable or improving condition and the number of candidate and at-risk species not listed due to conservation efforts.

In order to receive funds under the CESCF program, States and territories must contribute 25 percent of the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10 percent when two or more States or territories implement a joint project. The balance of the estimated program costs is reimbursed through the grants. To ensure that State and territory programs are able to effectively carry out endangered species conservation efforts funded through these grants, a State or territory must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Service to receive grants. All 50 States currently have cooperative agreements for animals, and 44 States have agreements for plants. All but one territory have cooperative agreements for both animals and plants. In addition, in an attempt to achieve more effective conservation efforts, the Service intends to consider the priorities established in State Wildlife Conservation Plans when awarding grants, focusing on priority species and habitats.

Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART)

During Fiscal Year 2005, the Administration reviewed the Endangered Species Program (including the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and the Private Stewardship Grant Program) using the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). The PART examined the Program's purpose, planning, management, and most importantly, its performance and results. The assessment found that the program has a clear purpose to conserve threatened and endangered species and their habitats, however, the program lacks long-term outcome and annual output-oriented performance measures to reflect on the program's results. Additionally, the PART found:

- The program's effectiveness is limited by strict deadlines, regulatory measures that provide little biological benefit, and over-reliance on regulations rather than cooperative efforts. Changes in the program design and implementation could help to improve the effectiveness of the program.
- It is difficult to determine whether the program, including regulated activities, is effective, achieving results, and maximizing net benefits. Regularly scheduled, non-biased, independent program evaluations would help address this gap. Due to the nature of the program, evaluations of key components of the program that collectively cover the entire program will likely be appropriate.

In response to these PART findings, the Service will:

- Develop long-term outcome and annual output performance measures. Achievement of the outcome goals will depend on the efforts of many and require the Endangered Species program to continue working with partners.
- Ensure regulations and policies help improve the program's effectiveness. This may include revising the invalidated definition of adverse modification and issuing critical habitat guidance.
- Develop a process and timetable for regularly scheduled, non-biased, independent evaluations of the program or key components of the program that, collectively, cover the entire program.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- HCP Land Acquisition, HCP Planning Assistance, and Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants are awarded through national and regional competitions. The established eligibility and ranking criteria for the program and the competitions conducted to select grants allow the Service to focus the program on its overall goals and ensure that program performance goals are achieved.
- The Service continues to analyze results from previous years of the program to further refine program elements to better meet our performance goals.
- In 2005 the Service initiated a program review by an independent entity to identify potential areas of improvement in the administration of the program.
- Numbers of grants awarded in FY 2005:
 312 Conservation Grants to States and Territories
 22 HCP Planning Assistance Grants
 28 Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants
 11 HCP Land Acquisition Grants

Performance Overview ¹

Measure	2005 Plan	2005 Actual	Change from 2005 Plan	2006 Enacted	2006 Change from 2005 Actual	2007 Request	2007 Change from 2006
Increase the number of candidate species benefiting from Nontraditional Section 6 Project Awards. (BUR)	Establish baseline	22	n/a	21	-1	19	-2
Increase the number of listed species benefiting from Nontraditional Section 6 Project Awards. (BUR)	Establish baseline	283	n/a	275	-8	247	-28

¹ The performance measures in this table include program-level workload measures. The program is developing new long-term outcome and annual output performance measures as a result of a PART review conducted in 2005. Additionally, the Department is undergoing a revision of its Strategic Plan which may also result in revised or new performance measures.

Conservation Grants

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation Grants	\$(000)	7,325	9,852	-	+149	10,001	+149
	FTE	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Conservation Grants

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Conservation Grants	+149	0
Total, Program Changes	+149	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for Conservation Grants is \$10,001,000, a net program increase of \$149,000 and 0 FTE from the 2006 enacted level.

Conservation Grants (+\$149,000) - In contrast to the other section 6 grant programs, which usually support projects of third parties, State and territorial agencies themselves use the funds provided through the section 6 traditional conservation grants program for their on-the-ground projects to recover listed species. The traditional section 6 grants have been an important source of funds for State and territorial fish and wildlife agencies, many of whom have limited State funding for endangered species work, to address high priority needs. The increase to this program element will represent an increase to important State and territorial grant programs; it will support priority on-the-ground projects and studies, and will have great symbolic effect for one of our most important conservation partners. This increase will send an important message to the States' and territories about the importance of their participation and partnership in endangered species conservation and recovery.

Program Overview

Conservation Grants provide financial assistance to States and territories to implement conservation projects for listed species and species-at-risk. The Service makes a regional allocation of these funds based on the number of species covered under cooperative agreements within each Service region. Each Region then solicits proposals and selects projects based on species and habitat conservation benefits as well as other factors. Through the Conservation Grants program, States receive funding to implement recovery actions for listed species, implement conservation measures for candidate species, and perform research and monitoring critical to conservation of imperiled species. These actions directly support the outcome measures for endangered, threatened, and candidate species conservation under the Department's Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities. Activities funded by these grants aid in meeting the intermediate outcome strategies for the outcome measures relating to creation of necessary habitat conditions and managing species populations.

2007 Program Performance Estimates

The Service will publish a request for proposals in the second quarter of 2007 and anticipates making award announcements early in the fourth quarter of 2007. The Service expects to fund approximately the same number of grants in FY 2007 as were funded in FY 2006.

2006 Planned Program Performance

The Service published a request for proposals on December 21, 2005 and anticipates making award announcements early in the fourth quarter of 2006. Based on the average grant award in FY 2005, the Service expects to fund an additional 116 grants in FY 2006 over the FY 2005 amount.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Service awarded 312 Conservation Grants in FY 2005; examples are listed below. Each project includes the federal funds provided through the CESCOF program; however, in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.

- **Eastern indigo snake survey** Alabama \$14,500
- **Population Structure and Distribution of Steller's Eider** Alaska \$18,964
- **Roosting ecology of male Indiana bats** Arkansas \$6,000
- **Determining population trend and productivity for, and performing ecological investigations of, the marbled murrelet** California \$94,000
- **Implement comprehensive management plan for manatee** Georgia \$22,000
- **Captive Propagation of Guam Rails** Guam \$179,312
- **Endangered Plant Habitat Management - Natural Area Reserves** Hawaii \$95,000
- **Field Survey for Haplopappus liatiformis (Palouse goldenweed)** Idaho \$8,930
- **Indiana bat roost site survey: Buildings and bridges** Iowa \$21,533
- **Surveys, assessing impacts of management, and conservation plans for Mitchell's satyr** Michigan \$40,455
- **Intrinsic causes of low hatching success in gopher tortoise** Mississippi \$15,600
- **Determination of the current breeding status of the Hine's emerald dragonfly through larval and exuvial sampling of known sites, and searches for additional sites** Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin \$32,799
- **Breeding season survey for southwestern willow flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo** Nevada \$20,000
- **Sea Turtle (green, loggerhead and leatherback) Nest Counts, Management and Protection** North Carolina \$41,359
- **Management and cave protection for Ozark big-eared bat and gray bat** Oklahoma \$16,000
- **Assessing status of Eryycea salamanders and aquifer invertebrates in northern Hays County** Texas \$9,720
- **Madison cave isopod, status survey** Virginia \$8,000

Habitat Conservation Planning Grants

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Habitat Conservation Planning Grants	\$(000) FTE	8,522 -	7,531 -	- -	+111 -	7,642 -	+111 -

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Habitat Conservation Planning Grants

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Habitat Conservation Planning Grants	+111	0
Total, Program Changes	+111	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for HCP Planning Grants is \$7,642,000, a net program increase of \$111,000 and 0 FTE from the 2006 enacted level.

Habitat Conservation Planning Grants (+\$111,000) - The proposed increase will provide additional funds for the HCP Planning Grants that provide funds to states and territories to support the development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) through the support of baseline surveys and inventories, document preparation, outreach, and similar planning activities. The increase will allow the Service to fund approximately the same number of grants in the program element for FY 2007 as were funded in FY 2006, assuming the average grant amount is constant.

Program Overview

Through the development of regional, multiple species HCPs, local governments and planning jurisdictions incorporate species conservation into local land use plans, which streamlines the project approval process and facilitates economic development. The HCP Grants program provides funding to States to assist local governments and planning jurisdictions to develop regional, multi-species HCPs. These grants, which fund conservation planning for listed species, support outcome measures for endangered, threatened, and candidate species conservation under the Department's Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities. The planning activities funded by these grants help direct future implementation of intermediate outcome strategies for outcome measures pertaining to the creation of necessary habitat conditions and management of species populations.

2007 Program Performance Estimates

The Service will publish a request for proposals in the second quarter of 2007 and anticipates making award announcements early in the fourth quarter of 2007. The Service expects to fund approximately the same number of grants in FY 2007 as were funded in FY 2006.

2006 Planned Program Performance

The Service published a request for proposals on December 21, 2005 and anticipates making award announcements early in the fourth quarter of 2006. The Service expects to fund approximately the same number of grants in FY 2006 as were funded in FY 2005.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Service awarded 22 HCP Planning Grants in FY 2005; examples are listed below. Each project

includes the federal funds provided through the CESCOF program; however, in all cases these funds were leveraged by state, county, city, or private matching funds.

- **The Big Woods of Arkansas** (Arkansas, Phillips, Prairie, Monroe, St. Francis, White and Cross Counties, AR): \$250,250. This grant to the State of Arkansas will help start the planning phase of a multi-species landscape-level HCP in the Big Woods Area of Arkansas where a sighting of the ivory-billed woodpecker was recently confirmed. The plan will focus on the following six federally-listed endangered species: the ivory-billed woodpecker, the interior least tern, the red-cockaded woodpecker, and three federally-listed endangered mussels including the fat pocketbook, the pink mucket and the scaleshell. These funds will help the State of Arkansas and many partners work with private landowners and other stakeholders on timber and farm management, guiding and hunting to help provide habitat needed for the above species.
- **Placer County, Phase I, Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan** (Placer County, CA): \$193,000. Placer County currently is developing the first of three comprehensive, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plans and state Natural Community Conservation Plans to help resolve potential conflicts between development and the conservation of state and federally-listed and sensitive species. This grant will allow the County to complete the Phase 1 of the multi-species plan which covers over 221,000 acres in western Placer County and will address 5 plant and 28 animal species, including vernal pool species, salmon, and the California red-legged frog.
- **San Luis Valley Regional HCP** (Alamosa, Conejos, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties, CO): \$120,000. This grant is essential to the completion of a regional approach to conservation in the San Luis Valley for the southwestern willow flycatcher and other listed and candidate species. The HCP will cover approximately 2 million acres and 150 stream miles and would be the largest single HCP in Colorado. It has the potential to provide high recovery benefits for the southwestern willow flycatcher due to the wildlife value of the habitat proposed to be covered. The HCP has broad support from a diverse array of federal, state, and local governments and nongovernmental organizations.
- **Multi-State (Michigan and Indiana) Mitchell's Satyr Habitat Conservation Plan** (LaGrange and LaPorte Counties, IN; Barry, Berrien, Branch, Cass, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Washtenaw Counties, MI): \$880,000. This Habitat Conservation Plan will be developed jointly by the Indiana and Michigan departments of natural resources through a 3-year planning process. The plan is needed to efficiently secure incidental take permits to conduct management activities for Mitchell's satyr in occupied habitat. The plan will be developed following an ecosystem management approach – prairie fens and surrounding lands necessary to support proper hydrology will be managed by restoring ecological processes. Most of the stakeholders currently working towards recovery of the Mitchell's satyr will play a significant role in the development of the HCP and some likely will participate in the steering committee.
- **Hays County Regional HCP** (Hays County, TX): \$753,750. This grant will help local officials in Hays County develop a regional Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP) to permanently protect endangered species. The HCP will be designed to permanently protect fully functional mature juniper-oak woodlands and oak savannas for endangered golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo and potentially other rare species. The RHCP would provide for conservation of the covered species in Hays County, and allow "one-stop shopping" for landowners and public entities to deal with complex endangered species issues, thereby providing more options and more certainty about future land uses.
- **Family Forest HCP for Lewis County** (Lewis County, WA): \$525,000. This Habitat Conservation Plan is a first of its kind effort to address the needs of endangered species, family forest landowners,

and regulatory agencies. This final phase of funding will complete the planning process which will provide landowners and agencies with a programmatic approach to HCP implementation while providing critical aquatic and upland habitat needs for threatened, endangered, and species-of-concern on family forest land in Lewis County.

Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants	\$(000) FTE	13,400 -	13,977 -	- -	+209 -	14,186 -	+209 -

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Habitat Conservation Planning Grants

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants	+209	0
Total, Program Changes	+209	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants is \$14,186,000, a net program increase of \$209,000 and 0 FTE from the 2006 enacted level.

Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (+\$209,000) The Species Recovery Land Acquisition program element supports acquisition of habitat for endangered and threatened species in support of approved recovery plans. Acquisition to secure long term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species. Annually, the States submit proposals for recovery land acquisition projects funding that far exceed the available funding. This increase will help address this need.

Program Overview

Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species. Land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of safeguarding habitats essential for recovery of listed species before development or other land use changes impair or destroy key habitat values. Land acquisition is costly and often neither the Service nor the States and territories individually have the necessary resources to acquire habitats essential for recovery of listed species. Recovery Land Acquisition grant funds are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire these habitats from willing sellers. Because the criteria used to evaluate and award grants focus on the benefits to listed species, these grants directly support the outcome measures for endangered, threatened, and candidate species conservation under the Department's Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities. The activities funded by these grants aid in carrying out the intermediate outcome strategies for these outcome measures relating to creation of necessary habitat conditions and managing species populations.

Program Performance Change

The requested change in funding will have no significant impact on Endangered Species goals to increase the number of candidate species and number of listed species benefiting from Endangered Species Grant Programs (Nontraditional Section 6 and Private Stewardship).

2007 Program Performance Estimates

The Service will publish a request for proposals in the second quarter of 2007 and anticipates making award announcements early in the fourth quarter of 2007. The Service expects to fund approximately the same number of grants in FY 2007 as were funded in FY 2006.

2006 Planned Program Performance

The Service published a request for proposals on December 21, 2005 and anticipates making award announcements early in the fourth quarter of 2006. The Service expects to fund approximately the same number of grants in FY 2006 as were funded in FY 2005.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Service awarded 28 Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2005; examples are listed below. Each project includes the federal funds provided through the CESCOF program; however, in all cases these funds were leveraged by state, county, city, or private matching funds.

- **An Ecoregion Approach to Recovery of the Ozark Big-eared Bat and Three Other Federally Listed Karst Dependent Species: Phase II** (Benton and Marion Counties, AR): \$405,190. This grant will support a plan to purchase tracts in both Oklahoma and Arkansas that provide foraging habitat, movement corridors, and roost sites for populations for Ozark big-eared bat, gray bat, and Indiana bat. The acquisition will also reduce the likelihood of extinction for the Ozark big-eared bat by providing increased dispersal opportunities and increased gene flow among isolated populations. Additionally, the project will result in increased protection of the Ozark cavefish.
- **Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Santa Rosa Mountains** (Riverside County, CA): \$100,000. Acquisition of land parcels totaling approximately 250 acres will ensure that this area remains intact, preventing further habitat fragmentation. These acquisitions will eliminate pending development threats and will protect Peninsular bighorn sheep and several other listed and sensitive plants and animals that are proposed for coverage under the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.
- **Manuka Natural Area Reserve** (Hawaii County, HI): \$78,750. This grant will fund acquisition of a 1-acre parcel located near the center of the Manuka Natural Area Reserve (NAR), established to protect in perpetuity a diverse range of natural communities including dry and mesic forests, subalpine shrublands and forests, lowland and coastal shrublands and grasslands, anchialine pools, pioneer vegetation on lava flows and lava tubes. These communities provide habitat for native plants and animals including the endangered Hawaiian hawk, Hawaiian hoary bat, and an endangered fern *Diellia erecta*. The parcel will be added to the NAR and managed in conjunction with the surrounding area for native species conservation.
- **Dwarf wedge mussel** (St. Mary's County, MD): \$225,000. This grant will be used to purchase a perpetual conservation easement on 85 acres within the McIntosh Run Watershed. The main stem of the McIntosh Run contains one of only three populations of the endangered dwarf wedge mussel in Maryland, and is considered the most viable population of the three. The property is adjacent to a half mile section of the 3.5 mile reach of McIntosh Run containing the dwarf wedge mussel populations. In addition, this property also supports an active bald eagle nest. Protection of this property is considered the first step in preserving at least 1,680 acres in the watershed to insure the future viability of the McIntosh Run dwarf wedge mussel population.
- **Lahontan Cutthroat, Little Humboldt/Snowstorm Mountain** (Elko County, NV): \$600,000. This grant will support the purchase of 6,883 acres of land and 39.5 stream miles of threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat located in the Snowstorm Mountain Range, Elko County, Nevada. Habitat will be purchased to meet conservation and recovery goals for this listed species within the Humboldt Distinct Population Segment of the Humboldt River Basin. This acquisition is considered a unique and limited opportunity to establish a self sustaining metapopulation of Lahontan cutthroat trout within the South Fork Little Humboldt River. Partners contributing to this \$1.3 million dollar

acquisition include the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Division of State Lands, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, and Trout Unlimited.

- **Small Whorled Pogonia Conservation Easement Acquisition** (Hocking County, OH): \$208,654. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources will acquire a conservation easement for small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) at Camp Oty'Okwa, one of three residential camps in the country owned and operated by a Big Brothers Big Sisters agency. The 160-acre easement would protect the small whorled pogonia population as well as provide a considerable buffer of similar habitat where more plants could potentially be found. Protection of this population is significant both ecologically and genetically because of its distance from the core populations. Upon protection of the site, a research plan will be initiated to address additional priorities of the recovery plan including monitoring existing and surveying for new populations.
- **An Ecoregion Approach to Recovery of the Ozark Big-Eared bat** (Adair County, OK): \$425,850. Acquisition of two tracts of land by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation will protect 820 acres of high quality foraging habitat and at least three caves used by the endangered Ozark big-eared bat. These tracts are adjacent to the Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge and will facilitate dispersal between the Refuge and important protected habitats in Arkansas. Conservation of these essential karst features and surrounding forested habitat will greatly contribute toward recovery of this bat.
- **Lower Hobble Creek Restoration** (Utah County, UT): \$448,800. This grant will provide funds to acquire important habitat for the endangered June sucker. The purchase will allow partners to restore and protect spawning, young-of-year, and juvenile habitat for June sucker while restoring wetland, tributary, and lake function on Utah Lake. These actions will benefit multiple native wetland and riparian species and provide non-native control, water quality improvements, and water management. Land would be managed as a natural area over the long term and would be accessible to the public.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
HCP Land Acquisition	\$(000)	48,698	46,160	-	-5,573	40,587	-5,573
Grants	FTE	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for HCP Land Acquisition Grants

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• HCP Land Acquisition Grants	-5,573	0
Total, Program Changes	-5,573	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for HCP Land Acquisition Grants is \$40,587,000, a net program decrease of \$5,573,000 and 0 FTE from the 2006 enacted level.

HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States (-\$5,573,000) - The HCP Land Acquisition Grants support states in acquiring land associated with approved HCPs. These grants support conservation actions by state or local governments that complement mitigation. The Service considers the use of federal acquisition dollars by states for habitat protection to be an important and effective mechanism to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species. While the program has been successful since its inception in 1997, other grant-making and conservation programs, for which increases are being requested, such as the Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants and the Landowner Incentives Program Grants, are available to further the goals of the HCP program. Additionally, within this decrease, \$5,066,666 will be shifted to the Nez Perce Settlement - Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 described below.

Program Performance Change Table

<u>Total Performance Change</u>		-2 candidate species benefiting from Nontraditional Section 6 Project Awards -28 listed species benefiting from Nontraditional Section 6 Project Awards			
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D=A+B+C</u>	<u>E</u>
<i>Overall Performance Changes from 2006 to 2007</i>					
Measure	2006 Enacted Performance	2007 Base Performance	2007 Impact of Program Change on Performance	2007 Budget Request Performance	Out-year Impact of 2007 Program Change on Performance
Increase the number of candidate species benefiting from Nontraditional Section 6 Project Awards. (BUR)	21	21	-2	19	TBD
Increase the number of listed species benefiting from Nontraditional Section 6 Project Awards. (BUR)	275	275	-28	247	TBD
Column B: The performance level expected to be achieved absent the program change (i.e., at the 2006 request level plus/minus funded fixed cost/related changes); this would reflect, for example, the impact of prior year funding changes, management efficiencies, absorption of fixed costs, and trend impacts.					
Column E: The out-year impact is the change in performance level expected in 2008 and Beyond of ONLY the requested program budget change; it does <u>not</u> include the impact of receiving these funds again in a subsequent outyear.					

Program Overview

The conservation benefits provided by HCPs can be greatly increased by protecting important habitat areas covered by HCPs. HCP Land Acquisition funds are used by states and non-federal entities to acquire habitats from willing sellers and are meant to complement, not replace, the mitigation responsibilities of HCP permittees. States and territories receive grant funds for land acquisitions associated with approved HCPs because of their authorities and close working relationships with local governments and private landowners. These grants directly support outcome measures for endangered, threatened, and candidate species conservation under the Department's Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities. The activities funded by these grants would carry out the intermediate outcome strategies for outcome measures relating to the creation of necessary habitat conditions and managing species populations.



Dedication ceremony for the Bull River Wildlife Management Area, Montana where the Section 6 HCP Land Acquisition Grant Program funded conservation easements.

2007 Program Performance Estimates

The Service will publish a request for proposals in the second quarter of 2007 and anticipates making award announcements early in the fourth quarter of 2007. The Service expects to fund approximately the same number of grants in FY 2007 as were funded in FY 2006. The reduction for the grants will likely result in 2 fewer unique candidate species and 28 fewer unique listed species benefiting from the program in FY 2007.

2006 Planned Program Performance

The Service published a request for proposals on December 21, 2005 and anticipates making award announcements early in the fourth quarter of 2006. The Service expects to fund approximately the same number of grants in FY 2006 as were funded in FY 2005.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Service awarded 11 HCP Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2005; examples are listed below. Each project includes the federal funds provided through the CESCOF program; however, in all cases these funds were leveraged by state, county, city, or private matching funds.

- **Orange County Central/Coastal Natural Community Conservation Plan/ Habitat Conservation Plan** (Orange County, CA): \$3,120,741. This grant will contribute to the acquisition and conservation of habitat to benefit the federally listed coastal California gnatcatcher and least Bell's vireo. These acquisitions will also complement the conservation already underway through implementation of the Orange County Central/Coastal Natural Communities Conservation/Habitat Conservation Plan. Acquisitions and easements are being considered in Middle Chiquita Canyon and the San Mateo Creek watershed. Middle Chiquita contains large amounts of coastal sage scrub and grasslands and is part of the largest remaining gnatcatcher population in the United States. Easements in the San Mateo Creek watershed would conserve the north-south linkage between Camp Pendleton and the Orange County Central Coastal Natural Communities Conservation/Habitat Conservation Plan through the Rancho Mission Viejo property for both the California gnatcatcher and the least Bell's vireo.
- **Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Lucas Tract** (Travis County, TX): \$6,890,000. This project will protect 140 acres of habitat for two endangered songbirds, the golden-cheeked warbler and blackcapped vireo. Additionally it will protect the New Comanche Trail Cave which provides habitat for two endangered karst invertebrates, the Tooth Cave spider and Bone Cave harvestman. The cave is one of only two confirmed localities where the Tooth Cave spider exists and is integral to the recovery of this species. Protection of this tract also provides critical connectivity between previously protected adjacent lands.
- **Iron County HCPLA for Utah Prairie Dogs** (Iron County, UT): \$600,000. Most of the remaining viable Utah prairie dog colonies occur on private lands; therefore, recovery of the threatened Utah prairie dog is directly reliant on successful implementation of conservation measures on private and municipal lands. Iron County, Utah supports the largest remaining populations and 75 percent of the entire population of Utah prairie dogs. Funding from this grant will provide for land acquisitions and conservation easements with willing sellers to help develop a Utah prairie dog preserve system on private lands. In this scenario, prairie dog habitat lost to development on private lands and within municipal boundaries would be offset by the protection, enhancement, and maintenance in perpetuity of identified Utah prairie dog colonies and linkage habitat on private and municipal lands. The parcel identified for this acquisition is a priority colony sustaining a high density of Utah prairie dogs in a rapidly developing area under immediate threat of development.
- **Plum Creek Central Cascades HCP** (Kittitas, Okanogan, and Yakima Counties, WA): \$7,417,805. This grant will provide funding to purchase habitat to support the Plum Creek Central Cascades Habitat Conservation Plan. In Yakima County, permanent habitat protection will be provided for bird, mammal, amphibian, and fish species on approximately 7,000 acres of contiguous mature ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and riparian habitats in the Tieton River Canyon. In Kittitas County, this funding will purchase and permanently protect 297 acres of forested hillside on Amabilis Mountain and adjacent areas that flow into Swamp Lake within the Yakima River Watershed. Protection of these lands would protect the north/south wildlife corridor that runs between Keechelus and Kachess Lakes

and provide habitat for marbled murrelet, spotted owl, and numerous terrestrial species. And in Okanogan County, this grant will acquire 600 acres securing more than 6,000 acres and 10 miles of stream frontage to protect mature conifer and riparian habitat corridors for 40 priority species including spotted owls, grizzly bears, gray wolves, lynx, bull trout, and salmon in the Methow River Watershed.

Nez Perce Settlement - Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Nez Perce Settlement							
– Snake River Water	\$(000)	0	0	-	+5,067	5,067	+5,067
Rights Act of 2004	FTE	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Nez Perce Settlement

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Nez Perce Settlement – Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004	+5,067	0
Total, Program Changes	+5,067	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for Nez Perce Settlement – Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 is \$5,067,000, a net program increase of \$5,067,000 and 0 FTE from the 2006 enacted level.

Nez Perce Settlement - Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 (+\$5,066,666) To fulfill obligations under the Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-447), \$5,066,666 will be provided to the State of Idaho for the Idaho Salmon and Clearwater Basin Habitat Account from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. This new program element will be funded through a commensurate decrease in the HCP Land Acquisition Grants program element.

Program Overview

Since 1998, the Nez Perce Tribe, the United States, the State of Idaho, and local communities and water users in Idaho have engaged in mediation as part of the Snake River Basin Adjudication to resolve the water rights claims of the Nez Perce Tribe in the Snake River. The Tribe's claim to instream flow rights in the Snake River in order to protect its treaty-based fishery was one of the significant issues involved in this dispute.

In 2004 the parties reached an agreement to settle this dispute. Under the obligations of the Snake River Water Rights Act, Interior will provide \$29 million in 2007 to the Nez Perce Tribe and the State of Idaho to fund water supply and habitat restoration projects. This cooperative venture with the State and Tribe will protect threatened and endangered salmon in Idaho and restore Clearwater Basin habitat. It will allow Idaho to complete adjudication of Snake River water rights, develop a long-term public water policy, and enable the Department to fulfill trust responsibilities. The \$5,066,666 requested through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is for the Idaho Salmon and Clearwater River Basins Habitat Account, which was established as part of the settlement. This account will provide funding for habitat improvement projects.

Administration

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Administration	\$(000)	2,518	2,481	-	+37	2,518	+37
	FTE	26	6	-	-	6	0

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Administration

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Administration	+37	0
Total, Program Changes	+37	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for Administration is \$2,518,000, a net program increase of \$37,000 and 0 FTE from the 2006 enacted level.

Administration (+\$37,000) This proposed increase will provide additional administrative funding necessary to ensure that the program is operated efficiently.

Program Overview

Federal grant management and administrative oversight are necessary to ensure compliance with program requirements and purposes. The funding requested for Administration allows the Service to carry out these responsibilities.

Standard Form 300

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND**

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-5143-0		2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
Obligations by program activity:				
00.01	Grants to States	24,983	29,750	30,500
00.02	Grants to States/Land Acquisition/HCPs	45,627	55,250	61,000
00.03	Grant Administration	3,176	1,247	1,305
00.05	Payment to special fund unavailable receipt account	35,470	39,302	43,161
10.00	Total new obligations	109,256	125,549	135,966
Budgetary resources available for obligation:				
21.40	Unobligated balance carried forward, start of year	99,161	111,762	105,515
22.00	New budget authority (gross)	115,932	119,302	123,162
22.10	Resources available from recoveries of prior year obligations	5,925	0	0
23.90	Total budgetary resources available for obligation	221,018	231,064	228,677
23.95	Total new obligations (-)	-109,256	-125,549	-135,966
24.40	Unobligated balance carried forward, end of year	111,762	105,515	92,711
New budget authority (gross) detail:				
Discretionary:				
40.20	Appropriation (LWCF special fund, 14 5479) [14-5005-0-302-N-0514-01]	49,384	62,039	80,001
40.20	Appropriation (CESCF special fund 14 5143) [14-5005-0-302-N-0500-01]	32,212	20,161	
40.34	Appropriation temporarily reduced (HR 2863)		-808	
40.36	Unobligated balance permanently reduced		-1,000	
40.37	Appropriation temporarily reduced [14-5005-0-302-N-0514-01]	-1,133	-391	
43.00	Appropriation (total discretionary)	80,462	80,001	80,001
Mandatory:				
60.00	Appropriation	35,470	39,302	43,161
70.00	Total new budget authority (gross)	115,932	119,302	123,162
Change in obligated balances:				
72.40	Obligated balance, start of year	112,311	125,134	130,454
73.10	Total new obligations	109,256	125,549	135,966
73.20	Total outlays, gross (-)	-90,508	-120,229	-123,370
73.45	Recoveries of prior year obligations	-5,925	0	0
74.40	Obligated balance, end of year	125,134	130,454	143,050
Outlays, (gross) detail:				
86.90	Outlays from new discretionary authority	8,046	8,000	8,000
86.93	Outlays from discretionary balances	47,368	72,927	72,209
86.97	Outlays from new mandatory authority	35,094	39,302	43,161
87.00	Total, outlays (gross)	90,508	120,229	123,370
Net budget authority and outlays:				
89.00	Budget authority	115,932	119,302	123,162
90.00	Outlays	90,508	120,229	123,370
95.02	Unpaid obligation, end of year	125,134	130,454	143,050

Note: Amounts on this table (\$ thousands) may not agree with Budget Appendix amounts (\$ millions) due to rounding.

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Object classification (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-5143-0-2-303		2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
Direct obligations:				
Personnel compensation:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	1,745	350	358
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	180	100	102
11.5	Other personnel compensation	21	17	21
11.9	Total personnel compensation	1,946	467	481
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	557	150	154
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	34	25	25
22.0	Transportation of things	9	10	11
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	105	90	100
23.2	Rental payments to others	3	4	5
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	10	15	20
24.0	Printing	1	2	3
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	5	6	7
25.2	Other services	311	315	320
25.3	Purchases of good and services from government agencies	116	120	125
25.7	Operation and maintenance of facilities	2	3	4
26.0	Supplies and materials	7	10	15
31.0	Equipment	26	30	35
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	70,654	85,000	91,500
94.0	Financial transfers	35,470	39,302	43,161
99.9	Subtotal, direct obligations	109,256	125,549	135,966

Personnel Summary

Identification code 14-5143-0-2-303		2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
Total compensable workyears:				
1001	Full-time equivalent employment	26	6	6

Note: Amounts on this table (\$ thousands) may not agree with Budget Appendix amounts (\$ millions) due to rounding.